

Message Text

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72

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

INT-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /175 W

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R 101536Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4024

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1741

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, RQ, TS

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UN COMMITTEE OF 24: TUNISIAN POSITION

1. AMB. SCHAUFLE ACCOMPANIED BY MISOFF CALLED ON TUNISIAN PERM REP DRISS AND COMMITTEE OF 24 REP BACHROUCH MAY 7 TO REVIEW US POSITION ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IN UN AND TO REQUEST TUNISIAN ASSISTANCE IN LIMITING COMMITTEE OF 24 INVOLVEMENT.

2. SCHAUFLE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR TUNISIA'S POSITION ON ISSUE IN '72 AND '73. DRISS SAID THAT SINCE PUERTO RICO HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM LIST OF NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES BY UNGA IN 1953, THERE WAS NO LEGAL BASIS FOR COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS IT "AT THIS TIME". DRISS ADMITTED THAT ISSUE PUSHED ONLY BY CUBA, AIDED BY A FEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND REGRETTEED THAT ATMOSPHERE IN COMMITTEE REQUIRED TUNISIA TO ABSTAIN RATHER THAN TO VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTIONS ON PUERTO RICO ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE IN PAST TWO YEARS. DRISS SAID THAT WHILE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE NOT YET ON COMMITTEE'S FRONT BURNER THIS YEAR, TUNISIAN REP ON COMMITTEE WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US AND WOULD DO HIS BEST TO TONE DOWN ANY EVENTUAL RESOLUTION.

3. DRISS NOTED THAT HE HAD VISITED PUERTO RICO WHILE
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TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO US AND HAD RETURNED VERY MUCH

IMPRESSED BY POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THERE. DRISS
URGED THAT PUERTO RICAN GOVERNMENT INVITE WASHINGTON AMBASSADORS
OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED ON COMMITTEE SINCE THEIR REPORTS TO
FOREIGN OFFICES WOULD AFFECT POSITIONS IN COMMITTEE. HE NOTED
THAT UN PERM REPS FROM THESE SAME COUNTRIES UNDER PRESSURE NOT
TO ACCEPT INVITATIONS TO PUERTO RICO UNLESS THEY EXTENDED
TO COMMITTEE ITSELF.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE DRISS' SUGGESTION RE INVITATIONS TO
WASHINGTON AMBASSADORS VERY WORTHWHILE AND SUGGEST DEPARTMENT
PASS IT TO PUERTO RICO COMMONWEALTH OFFICE DIRECTOR CABRANES.
WE WILL DO SAME WHEN GOV. HERNANDEZ-COLON CALLS ON AMB. SCALI
NEXT WEEK.
BENNETT

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Message Attributes

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